

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-52 have been canceled. Claims 53-77 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1-52 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Shaffer, et al. (US 6,092,114) patent taken alone or with one or more of the Mertama, et al. (US 6,629,130) patent, the Smith, et al. (US 6,119,137) patent, the Pepe, et al. (US 5,742,905) patent, the Toyoda, et al. (US 5,881,233) patent and the Kaufeld, et al. (US 5,859,967) patent. Applicants have canceled claims 1-52, rendering this rejection moot. To the extent the Examiner believes the rejection is applicable to newly added claims 53-77, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 53 is directed to an information providing apparatus comprising: reception means for receiving transmission information addressed to a target terminal; determination means for determining whether the transmission information is presentable at the target terminal; decision means for deciding a forwarding terminal different from the target terminal, to which the transmission information is forwarded, if said determination means determined that the transmission information is not presentable at the target terminal; conversion means for converting the transmission information to be presentable at the forwarding terminal; and control means for controlling to send the converted transmission information to the forwarding terminal. Applicants' independent method and medium claims 65 and 77 have similar features.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In the Shaffer, et al. patent, a remote client device 24 sends emails through a link 28, a network 22 and a link 20. These emails are accessible by target users 14, 16 and 18 via a local router/server 12. If an email to a target user contains an attachment that is not compatible

with the target user, the attachment can be converted by either the format converter 30 or the format converter 32 to a format that is compatible with the target user and the email and attachment are then received by the target user. This process can occur by the target user requesting the conversion or the local router/server 12 recognizing that the attachment needs to be converted based on the local router/server knowing the capabilities of the target user.

In the system of the Schaffer, et al. patent, therefore, an email to a target user is recognized by the target user or a local server serving the target user as containing an incompatible attachment. The target user or the server can then act to have the attachment converted by an outside converter and then received by the target user. Accordingly, all the Shaffer, et al. patent teaches is that an email and attachment not accessible by a target user is converted by an outside converter so that it can be accessed by that target user.

Thus, the Shaffer, et al. patent fails to teach or suggest a decision means for deciding a forwarding terminal different from the target terminal, to which the transmission information is forwarded, if said determination means determined that the transmission information is not presentable at the target terminal. Nor is there a conversion means for converting the transmission information to be presentable at the forwarding terminal or a control means for controlling to send the converted transmission information to the forwarding terminal.

Applicants' amended claims 53, 65 and 77, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Shaffer, et al. patent. Moreover, the other cited patents fail to add anything to the Shaffer, et al. patent to change this conclusion.

In particular, the Mertama, et al. patent merely teaches that a terminal converts formats contained in received email messages to a displayable format (FIGS. 2 and 3). Also,

the Mertama, et al. patent teaches dividing a message into a plurality of parts. The Smith, et al. patent teaches converting a file in accordance with the capability of a client. The Pepe, et al. patent teaches notifying a recipient's device with a notification indicating that a message has been received. The Toyoda, et al. patent teaches converting mail message data to fax format data and the Kaufeld, et al. patent teaches charging for a service which, for example, converts an email message to fax data.

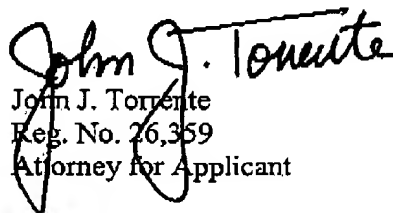
None of these patents thus teaches or suggests a decision means for deciding a forwarding terminal different from the target terminal, to which the transmission information is forwarded, if said determination means determined that the transmission information is not presentable at the target terminal, a conversion means for converting the transmission information to be presentable at the forwarding terminal, and a control means for controlling to send the converted transmission information to the forwarding terminal. Applicants' amended claims 53, 65 and 77, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Shaffer, et al. patent taken with one or more of the Mertama, et al. patent, the Smith, et al. patent, the Pepe, et al. patent, the Toyoda, et al. patent and the Kaufeld, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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